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Conduce H. Gatch

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## NOTABLE DEATHS.

COL. CONDUCE H. GATCH was born near Milford, Ohio, July 25, 1825; he died at Des Moines, July 1, 1897. The family originally came from Prussia, settling in Maryland in 1725, and afterwards in Virginia; but in 1798 his grandfather liberated his slaves and removed to the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio. The subject of this notice grew up to the age of seventeen on his father's farm, attending school during the winters and laboring the rest of the year. After reaching that age he took a regular course of study at Augusta College, Kentucky. He studied law at Xenia, Ohio, and was admitted to practice at Columbus in 1848. He settled at Kenton, where he resided until the outbreak of the rebellion, in the meantime serving as prosecuting attorney of his county and as State Senator. Originally a Whig, he early became a Republican, and was a delegate in the national convention which nominated John C. Fremont for the presidency in 1856. In 1861 he raised a company for the 33d Ohio Infantry, of which he was commissioned captain. He participated in the battles of Nashville, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville and Huntsville, and during the latter part of his service was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 135th Ohio Infantry. He came to Iowa in 1866, making his permanent home in Des Moines. He was elected to the State Senate in 1885, and was re-elected four years later. Of this body he became one of the most industrious, useful and influential members. Among the measures which he introduced and with which he was conspicuously identified during his legislative service—all of which found their way into the statute books—were those for the improvement of the capitol grounds, the founding of the Historical Department, an act reducing the number of peremptory jury challenges by defendants in criminal cases to the number allowed by the State, and the general law promoting the organization of public libraries in cities and towns. In regard to this last measure it is but justice to state that he had the active aid in its preparation of Judge George W. Wakefield, of Sioux City. The burthen of securing its passage devolved upon Col. Gatch. The chief point in this law was the placing of public libraries under the control of trustees instead of the city councils. It was a decided innovation, a most excellent measure, and of far-reaching importance to the State. He performed a large share of the work incident to the preparation and introduction of the revenue bill, which came from the Committee of Ways and Means in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly. This passed the Senate but failed in the House. He also introduced and secured the passage of several excellent measures of minor importance. But the bill considered by himself the most meritorious of all introduced by him while in the legislature, was one exempting the homestead from taxation to the value of \$1,000, which, though presented at each of his four successive sessions, and most earnestly advocated, failed each time of receiving the favorable consideration of the Senate. As a Methodist he had been twice a delegate to the General Conference—1876 and 1880—and was prominent in church and Sabbath-school work all his mature life. During his residence in Des Moines he attained a commanding position as a lawyer. His record in the army, at the bar, and as a legislator, was honorable and creditable in the highest degree. Stepping down and out of public life made little difference in the career of this useful citizen and eminently Christian gentleman, for as long as he lived he was daily called upon to put his hand to some good work, in the furtherance of measures of public improvement, education or charity. His noble deeds only ended with his life.

HENRY CLAY BULIS, who was intimately connected with the public affairs of our State for over forty years; died at Decorah, September 7, 1897. Dr. Bulis was born in Clinton county, New York, November 14, 1830. His

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